

THE GATEWAY

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NEAL WILKINS

NO MORE PUCKING AROUND The Bears hockey team won their second consecutive national championship Sunday night at Rexall Place. You can read all about the University Cup in the six-page sports section that starts on page 8.

Bears hockey squad golden again

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Staff

The feeling in the Golden Bears dressing room after fifth-year assistant captain Ben Thomson marched the University Cup in on Sunday night had to be one of validation. Perhaps this sense of affirmation came in the program's record twelfth University Cup, maybe it was the way in which the Bears grinded out a 3-2 win against the University of Lakehead Thunderwolves with their captain on the bench; or it could be that the Bears had verified them-

selves as the best hockey program in Canadian university sport. The reasons likely blended together in the same way that the Bears themselves did, as they laid claim to their second consecutive national championship in front of 7516 fans at Rexall Place.

"It's the fruit of our labour," said Bears assistant coach Serge Lajoie. "The boys worked hard all year. There were some growing pains there. The guys had to get used to [Bears head coach Eric] Thurston and the new leadership, but they responded."

The Bears started the tournament on Friday night against the wildcard entry

from the OUA, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks. In front of 7509 fans at Clare Drake Arena, the Bears managed to score seven straight goals en route to a convincing 8-2 victory.

Laurier racked up an astounding 48 minutes in penalties in the loss, and earned two game misconducts for dirty hits. While the Bears came away with a lopsided win, the game cost them a great deal of uncertainty for the rest of the weekend, as team captain Gavin McLeod suffered a lower body injury kept him out of action for the remainder of the tournament.

PLEASE SEE BEARS'WIN • PAGE 8

Alberta postsecondary receives funding boost

Provincial budget announcement fills funding gap with 19 per cent increase to advanced education

CHLOÉ FÉDO
Deputy News Editor

After over a year of review, and a plethora of promises to improve advanced education in Alberta, the provincial government has announced a 19 per cent increase in funding for postsecondary education.

With a total dedication of \$2.2 billion, the government has followed through on its promise to extend the tuition rebate for a second year, has established the \$652 000 endowment fund for the Alberta Centennial Scholarship, added a six per cent increase to base operating grants—to be continued for three years—and allocated \$61 million to create new student spaces.

"I would say that a lot of what happened in the budget was a re-announcement," Students' Union Vice-President (External) and President-elect Samantha Power said. "They really couldn't do any other thing; they were stuck."

Prior to the announcement of the budget, the government had already committed to extend the tuition rebate for a second year, which accounts for \$87 million. But even with the added promise to permanently reset tuition levels to the 2004/05 levels, which is effectively what students are paying now because of the rebates, and create a new tuition policy based on those costs, there's still work to be done in the area of tuition, said Jen Smith, Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS).

"My glad that they're making that funding ongoing so that students won't have to face a triple bump next year, but we still have the possibility of a fairly significant tuition increase on top of that, depending on what the new tuition policy is," Smith said. "This obviously can't be the final fix to tuition."

Michael Shields, director of communication for the advanced education ministry, said the budget is a reflection of the governments' commitment to postsecondary education.

"It's a clear endorsement of where advanced learning stands," he said.

"Last year when we paid [for the tuition rebate], I guess you could say it was more or less a one-time injection of money to deal with the tuition increases," Shields said, explaining that this year's commitment to decreasing tuition is more permanent.

"The \$87 million is going to be included for base operating budgets for institutions in the future; it's ongoing."

University President Dr Indira Samarasekera was enthusiastic about

the budgetary increases, and hopeful that the tuition policy would follow in the same vein.

"It's fantastic. I think that we should be applauding this government for placing higher education—postsecondary education in particular—at the very top of the agenda for the second year in a row, in terms of investment," Samarasekera said.

"The money is not extra; the money fills what we have determined as a gap. There are cost increases every year, with respect to utilities, with respect to operating the buildings, with respect to ensuring we cover the cost of salaries and other increases."

DR INDIRA SAMARASEKERA,
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

And though the announcement of increased base operating funding—six per cent every year for three years—is welcomed, Samarasekera said it's the minimum amount required to keep institutions afloat.

"The money is not extra; the money fills what we have determined as a gap. There are cost increases every year, with respect to utilities, with respect to operating the buildings, with respect to ensuring we cover the cost of salaries and other increases," she said. "We would otherwise have to lay off professors if we did not have that cost increase."

Other major projects, funded by \$1.1 billion over three years, include a digital library at the University of Calgary, the second phase of redevelopment at Bow Valley College, and an interdisciplinary science centre at the University of Alberta.

However, absent from the budget was an investment in the Access to the Future Fund, which has a goal of \$3 billion to work towards new postsecondary initiatives but currently sits at \$750 million—a source of concern for Power.

But Shields explained that the fund will be fully funded within two years, and that it has already generated \$45 million in interest.

PLEASE SEE BUDGET • PAGE 3

Inside

News	1-4
Opinion	5-7
Sports	8-13
A&E	15-18
Comics	19
Classifieds	20



Stop being a jackass

Feels pretty good to ride the LRT for free? Stickin' it to 'em? Well you're stickin' it to John Kmech too, and he doesn't like it.

OPINION, PAGE 7



The play to die for

Studio Theatre actress Shannon Blanchet talks about their latest show, *Scenes From an Execution*

A&E, PAGE 15

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Site 2-04
Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 1J7

Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665

E-mail gateway@gateway.uaberta.ca

editorial staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Daniel Kaszor
cie@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.5168

MANAGING EDITOR David Berry
managing@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6664

SENIOR NEWS EDITOR Jake Troughton
news@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.7308

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR Chloe Fiedor
deputynews@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6664

OPINION EDITOR Tim Peppin
opinion@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6663

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Mike Larocque
entertainment@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.7052

SPORTS EDITOR Chris O'Leary
sports@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6652

PHOTO EDITOR Matt Frehner
photo@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6648

DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR Iris Tse
production@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6661

business staff

BUSINESS MANAGER Steve Smith
biz@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6669

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE Patrick Czolek
sales@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6700

AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER Lisa Lunn
design@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6647

CIRCULATION PAL Adam Gaumont
circulation@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6669

CIRCULATION PAL Tyson Kaban
circulation@gateway.uaberta.ca | 492.6669



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colophon

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contributors

Tristan Folbre, Amanda Ash, Jon Knecht, Mike Kendrick, Chris Krause, Mike Robertson, Coral Renee Fraser Trigg, Jeff Martin, Andrew Benfey, Trevor Phillips, Lucina Desjardis, Dana Komperds, Edmon Rota, Johann Brown, Josh Nault, Nick White, Neal Widing, Alex Yee, Tara Storgies, Stiffi Winkler, and Barbara Chung.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Jake Troughton and Daniel Kaszor

HUB OF ACTIVITY

On 19 March, 5-o investigated a report that a disoriented male, who appeared unsure of his surroundings, was knocking on doors in HUB Mall. A description was provided, and the male was located within the mall by constables in attendance. The 29-year-old male had an extensive criminal record of violence and property offences, and was found to be in possession of mail that was later determined to be stolen. The mail thief was trespassing from campus and released into the custody of Edmonton Police Services. At this time, it's not known if charges are pending against the law-breaker.

NOWHERE TO HIDE

Campus Security received a call on 19 March reporting a suspicious male lurking around in the Cameron Library. The male was described as 5'11" and tanned, wearing a blue and red toque, a brown tanned jacket, and jeans. Officers located the male shortly after arriving on the scene. The creeper was arrested for trespassing and released into the

custody of EPS for several outstanding warrants.

CAMERON LIBRARY: MORE THAN JUST STABBINGS

On 19 March, Cameron Library staff phoned Campus Security on behalf of a student to report that a suspicious male was searching through a school bag on the fourth floor of the library. Officers attended the area, and the male was located on the third floor. He was arrested and issued a provincial violation ticket for trespassing, then turned over to EPS for numerous outstanding warrants.

THE COST OF EDUCATION

On 22 March at around 4:30pm, Campus 5-o attended SUB in response to a complaint that a male was selling term papers and essays to students. Officers interviewed the male, who had no University affiliation, and he was subsequently trespassing and escorted off University property.

IT TAILED THE LAW, AND THE LAW WON

A vehicle was stopped just before 1pm on 25 March after it was spotted driving erratically and tailgating a marked Campus Security vehicle on 114 Street. The driver, an unaffiliated 27-year-old male, was under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The degenerate driver was then issued a 24-hour license

suspension.

WHEN VIOLENCE GOES BAD

Around 11pm on 25 March, two rowdy males tossing snowballs near Lister Centre set in motion a near-tragic series of events when it turned out they were picking on the wrong person. The two pranksters threw snowballs at a passing Ford F-150 truck, which evidently upset the driver, who sped over the sidewalk toward the front door of Lister in pursuit of the hurlers. In the process, he narrowly missed hitting an uninvolved group of students walking on the sidewalk. Campus 5-o is investigating and is requesting assistance in identifying the snowballers.

NOT SO SAINTLY

Over the weekend of 25 March, several officers on the first floor of the Campus Saint-Jean Pavilion MacMahon were broken into. After unknown persons forced entry into the building, several officers were forced open and desks were rummaged through. Stolen property included computer flat screen monitors and projectors. The total value of the stolen technology is not known at this time.

METHEM FOUNDAMENE

On 26 March Campus Security found a male and female asleep behind cabinets on the 2nd level SUB outside the entrance to the Horowitz theatre. The

man had previously come to the attention of 5-o on numerous occasions and was a known meth user. The woman was trespassing, and the meth-perp was issued a provincial summons for trespassing and escorted away from University property.

WRONG PLACE...

Early in the morning of 26 March, a male and female walked into the 5-o office and sat down on the chairs in the lobby, explaining that they were waiting for the LRT to start running. Unfortunately for them, they were unaware exactly where they were, and it turned out that the male had previously been trespassing from University property by 5-o officers. Both the male and female were escorted downtown.

BUS LOOP OR RACE TRACK?

Around 12:00pm on 26 March, a 5-o constable observed a vehicle driving at high speed through the University bus loop. The vehicle was stopped, and the unaffiliated 22-year-old male driver was issued a 24-hour suspension. Open liquor was found exposed in the vehicle, and the vehicle didn't match its license plate. After contacting the owner, it was determined that the plate had been stolen. The drunken race car driver was arrested for possession of stolen property and released into the custody of EPS, who are investigating the incident further.

STREETERS

The Terminator is a robotic endoskeleton in a human shell while Robocop is part man, part machine.

Who would win in a fight between Terminator and Robocop, and who would have to guest referee to keep them in line?



Matt Larocque
Grad Studies II



Cayde Brown
Engineering I



Kelly Weiss
Nutrition IV



Derek Lafferty
Business IV

Terminator is from the future, whereas Robocop is kind of from the past, so Terminator probably has better technology, so he'd probably win. And I can't think of anything more powerful than the Terminator, so I don't think there could be a guest referee — no one would be able to keep him in line.

Probably Robocop, because he's bigger, badder, and meaner, and he's solid metal. So is the Terminator, I guess, but I like Robocop more. I think the referee would probably have to be Predator, again, he's just big and scary, and he'd keep them in line.

I guess I would say the Terminator, because I know I've seen that movie, and I don't think I've seen Robocop. The ref would be Hulk Hogan, because he could probably take them if they started anything.

The Terminator, because he has more movies. I think that means he probably lasts longer, and keeps coming back, so it would be him for sure. I can't even think of who would be a guest referee. Yeah, I have no idea who could do that.

Compiled and photographed by David Berry and Amanda Ash

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Campus forum discusses increased risk of caribou extinction in Alberta

As industry continues to boom, caribou herds are struggling to survive

TRISTAN POLINSBEE
News Staff

Alberta's endangered woodland caribou herds were the subject of a roundtable discussion Wednesday night on an event put on by the Environmental and Conservation Sciences Student's Association.

In a brief presentation before the discussion, Dr Stan Boutin, a Professor in Biological Sciences at the U of A, said that woodland caribou, which are found across Canada's North, are in widespread decline, something that's especially evident in Alberta. He went on to say that the major factor causing the decline is predation, primarily by wolves, but that human impact in the sensitive habitat have made caribou more susceptible to that predation.

"[The declining number of caribou] is related to habitat that serves as shelter, which is a predator refuge issue," said Boutin.

According to Boutin, caribou traditionally avoid predation by segregating themselves from other ungulates, such as moose and deer. Human-caused changes to that traditional habitat, such as forestry harvesting and "linear features" like seismic lines and roads cut for oil and gas exploration, have resulted in greater instances of wolves hunting caribou.

Much of the discussion focused on the state of the Little Smoky caribou herd, located near Hinton, which is listed in the provincial caribou recovery plan as "in immediate danger of extirpation." Boutin said the Little Smoky herd may number as few as 80 caribou.

Over the past 100 years, environmental change associated with booming industry and human development has caused caribou to move

north from their otherwise southern habitat, and caribou populations are in sharp decline. In 1984, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) classified the western woodland caribou as rare, and the Wildlife Act lists them as an endangered species.

"The Little Smoky herd has had most of its range removed, either by the forestry industry or by the petroleum industry. So actually, right now, it's in an island in a sea of development."

HELENE WALSH,
BOREAL CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Helene Walsh, a Boreal Campaign Director for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association, said that encroachment by industrial users into the Little Smoky herd's habitat has hindered the herd and rendered them unable to survive.

"The Little Smoky herd has had most of its range removed, either by the forestry industry or by the petroleum industry. So actually, right now, it's in an island in a sea of development," said Walsh. "I think the tool [to save the herd] is actually quite simple; no more logging, at least until they have replacement habitat available."

Dr Rick Bonar, who is responsible for Hinton Wood Products' wildlife program, said that caribou aren't directly threatened by forestry

practices, but by increased wolf predation that results from forest harvesting, and that forestry companies have attempted to reduce their impact on sensitive habitat.

"Most of the companies ... that have caribou range within their tenure areas have all acted to reduce or defer harvesting to ensure there will always be enough mature habitat to produce the food side of the equation," said Bonar.

Rob Staniland, an Environmental Biologist with Talisman Energy, agreed that wolf predation was the limiting factor of the Little Smoky herd's survival. Staniland went on to say that since the oil and gas industries had come to understand that their exploration methods had a negative effect on caribou, they have instituted "best practices" guidelines which include limiting the size and number of seismic lines, to help defray those negative effects.

However, Boutin said that the rapid development in Alberta's boreal forest left those practices moot, since development is booming with no end in sight.

"It doesn't matter how good you are at doing something, if you multiply that through by the magnitude of development [in North-Eastern Alberta], we don't have a hope in hell of solving the problem that way," he said.

The Little Smoky herd is the subject of intense rehabilitative efforts by the provincial government, efforts that include the aforementioned best practices by industry, as well as a captive-rearing program for female caribou and a controversial wolf cull. Bonar explained that the provincial government will release details later this week on the state of that rehabilitative work.

Gov't increases funding for student loans

Student leaders worry that focusing on loans will only lead to more debt

BUDGET • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I think it's still very clear the government is committed to this endowment and sees it as really a critical piece to the future of advanced education," Shields said. "I would just say, 'Be patient and stay tuned.'"

The budget also included \$97 million towards student loans, and annual limits were increased by \$300, in recognition of the increased cost of living, to a total of \$12 440.

"As far as the loans go, it doesn't make me too happy, because it's just enabling higher student debt," Smith said. "I would have preferred to see more of those loans being converted into non-repayable student financial assistance."

Power echoed these statements, and went on to say that there are more innovative ways to invest in education.

"The initial response was slight disappointment, but it's not unexpected," Power said.

And as the wait for the new tuition policy continues, Smith is keen about student input and hopeful that the policy will make drastic changes to the current state, which allows for tuition increases until the revenues account for up to 30 per cent of an institution's base operating funding.

"CAUS would like to see tuition rolled back to 1999/2000 levels, and then after that, at a maximum, we would only like to see tuition increase at CPI minus 1 per cent," Smith said.



THINKING ABOUT TUITION Chair of CAUS Jen Smith discusses the budget.

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ASA election invalidated

Oversight may have given students multiple votes

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The Arts Students' Association has invalidated its election, held last week, after concerns were raised that some students could have voted twice.

The ASA Executive Committee—minus Vice-President (Programs and Events) Tim Schneider, held last week's election for President and abstained—voted unanimously to throw out last week's vote and hold a new election on the last two days of classes, 11 and 12 April.

Nominations for three of the five Executive positions will also be reopened, as there were no candidates for the positions in last week's election. President and Vice-President (External), which each had one candidate running, will not be reopened, and the two candidates will again face a yes/no ballot.

"At this point there's no way to tell who voted at each of the tables, but it's an issue of legitimacy, so we decided the best course of action was to do it again, even though we know the turnout is going to be absolutely dismal," said ASA VP (Academic) Chris Henderson.

The ASA election was held at the same time as the Students' Union election for Students' Council and General Faculties Council, and at a polling station in the Tory-Business Atrium students were able to vote for all three. There was also a polling station in the Humanities building where students could vote in the ASA election only.

Over the weekend, concerns were raised that since the voters at the Humanities table couldn't be checked against the records at the Tory table, it

was possible for students to vote once at each station. And since students who initially voted in Humanities then needed to travel to Tory to vote in the SU elections—where they were then given a second ASA ballot—it's likely that at least some voters were given two ballots, though the ASA has no way of knowing how many, if any, students took advantage of the glitch.

The fact that voter turnout was significantly higher than the previous year—there were 130 votes cast, versus 17 a year earlier—also heightened the concern of some that some students voted twice, though it wouldn't account for all of the rise in turnout.

Henderson also said that the low turnout—it increased to just over two per cent in the now-annulled election from well under half a per cent a year earlier—only emphasizes the importance of a clearly legitimate election in order for the ASA to credibly represent Arts students.

"The legitimacy of FA elections is important, because the turnout isn't exactly robust. So every vote has to have legitimacy," said Henderson.

He couldn't explain how the oversight, which he admitted was "fairly obvious," happened, suggesting that the Humanities polling station may have been set up at the last minute. Liz Chomyn, the ASA's Chief Returning Officer, wasn't reached for comment as of press time.

"I don't think she was negligent in her duties; I think it was just something that really wasn't explained," said Henderson. "I think the Humanities table may have been something they did at the last minute to increase turnout. And obviously it worked—or it didn't."

Carbon Rod among Council, GFC victors

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The Inanimate Carbon Rod Named Fraser was one of the big winners in last week's Students' Union election.

The joke candidate isn't eligible to actually take office, but it came out on top in the race for undergraduate Faculty of Arts seats on General Faculties Council, the University of Alberta's highest academic decision-making body.

There were a few other surprises in the unofficial results of the election, which saw students elect representatives to both GFC and Students' Council. The results will be made official this week after the software used to count the ballots is audited.

Arts was also the source of another unexpected result, this time in the Council race, as three of the nine candidates for the nine available seats were defeated by None of the Above. While all SU elections include the None of the Above option, it's rare that any candidates lose to it.

Elections for both bodies employ a preferential ballot system wherein candidates are ranked by voters; if no candidate has received a majority of votes, the lowest vote-getter is eliminated and their votes redistributed to the voter's next choice, with the process continuing until a candidate has a majority of votes. In faculties with more than one seat available, the process is then repeated for the remaining candidates.

Under SU bylaws, candidates who don't win but finish ahead of None of the Above are named "councilors-in-waiting" and will be asked to fill any vacancies that occur in their faculty.

Unfilled seats will remain vacant at least until the next by-election in September.

SU ELECTION RESULTS

Elected candidates in italics. All results are unofficial.

Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics

GFC (2 seats available)

- Leah Bennett
- None of the Above

Arts

GFC (9 seats available)

- The Inanimate Carbon Rod Named Fraser *
- Alan Cliff
- Cam Lewis
- Brook Richardson
- Tim Schneider
- Not A
- * Joke candidate
- Cayley Chipuer
- Chris Hill

Students' Council (9 seats available)

- Michael Janz
- Al-Amyr Sumar
- Brook Richardson
- Cam Lewis
- Tim Schneider
- John Chandler
- Not A
- Cayley Chipuer
- Chris Hill

Business

GFC (3 seats available)

- Michael Cook
- Scott Nicol
- Not A
- Michael Cook
- Eamonn Gamble
- Not A

Students' Council (3 seats available)

- Ryan Payne
- Michael Cook
- Eamonn Gamble
- Not A

Campus Saint-Jean

Students' Council (1 seat available)

- Brittany Bugler
- None of the Above

Education

Students' Council (4 seats available)

- Harold Semenuk
- None of the Above

Engineering

GFC (4 seats available)

- Gianna Wicentowich
- Stephen McFridgie
- Neil Johnson
- Scott Rehm
- Prem Erubetbine
- Not A

Students' Council (5 seats available)

- Kory Mathewson
- Prem Erubetbine
- Curt Clark
- Paul Kirvan
- Ben Nearingburg
- Not A

Law

GFC (1 seat available)

- Jonathan Tieman
- Not A

Students' Council (1 seat available)

- Jonathan Tieman
- Scott McAnish
- Not A

Medicine and Dentistry

GFC (2 seats available)

- Mark Keaus
- Not A

Students' Council (1 seat available)

- Carrie Ye
- Not A

Physical Education and Recreation

GFC (1 seat available)

- Stacey Badry
- Not A

Students' Council (1 seat available)

- Darren Grey
- Not A

Science

GFC (8 seats available)

- Justin Kitchie
- Peter Gill
- Steve Kirkham
- Dominic Mohan
- Brandon Trayner
- Sylvia Shamorna
- Bayan Hussein
- Najam Man
- Nassim Hussein
- Alin Florea
- Sheena Aperocho
- Not A

Students' Council (8 seats available)

- Greg German
- Theresa Chapman
- Steve Kirkham
- Brandon Trayner
- Sylvia Shamorna
- Christopher Le
- Bayan Hussein
- Bayan Hussein
- Nassim Hussein
- Alin Florea
- Sheena Aperocho
- Dominic Mohan
- Nassim Hussein
- Steve Dollansky
- Not A

Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS of the Student Involvement Awards, SALUTE Awards, Gold Key Awards, Coca Cola Awards and Student Group Awards!

STUDENTS'
UNION



AWARDS
2006

WHATEVER GOOD THINGS WE

BUILD END UP BUILDING US.

-JIM ROHN

ANNE LOUISE MUNDELL
HUMANITARIAN AWARD
Jennifer Au
Rennan Guo

CRISTAL MAI MEMORIAL AWARD
Amanda Laycock
Shirles Doshi

JAYE JIVE AWARD
Groene Wicentowich
Sarah Yang
Kelli Taylor

DEAN MORTENSEN AWARD
Alana Petrylyn
Pat Stratton

DR. RANDY GREGG
ATHLETICS AWARD
Louis Beaudenhot
Christopher Fung

EUGENE L. BRODY AWARD
Brian Taylor
Patrick Gomez

ALBERTA TREASURY BRANCHES
INVOLVEMENT AWARD
Terence Fung
Melissa Reinhardt

ROYAL BANK FINANCIAL GROUP
INVOLVEMENT AWARD
Wing Li

HILDA WILSON MEMORIAL
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD
Kristy Baron
Muntaha al Shah

HOOPER-MUNRO ACADEMIC AWARD
Susan Lee
Hao Yuan

SURWAY SANDWICHES AWARD
Caitlin Berghoff

FUNKY PICKLE PIZZA AWARD
Kerr Russell

ROYAL BANK STUDENT FACULTY
ASSOCIATION INVOLVEMENT AWARD
Gary Wicentowich

LOREN CALHOUN MEMORIAL AWARD
Aisha Khattib
Roman Kotsyach

MAIMIE SHAW SIMPSON BOOK PRIZE
Jada Gaudin
Winnie Wang

TEVIE MILLER INVOLVEMENT
AWARD
Kyle Kasanami
Spencer Nichol

TOM LANCASTER AWARD
Stephen Kirkham
Shenna Aperocho

WALTER A. DINWOODIE AWARD
Sharon So
Ali Grotkowski

STUDENTS' UNION AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE
Ariana Barer

SALUTE
STUDENTS' UNION AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP
IN VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES
Dr. Wendy Galt
Dr. Peter Smith
Dr. Zigmund Gertel

COCA COLA STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Gregory Harlow
Yang Li
Muzey Mohamedbhai
Sarah Gagliardi
Anastasia Kulpa
Sean Welling
Carrie Ye

GOLD KEY WINNERS
Arvid Beuring
Shirles Doshi
Christopher Fung
Patrick Gomez
Stephen Kirkham
Candace Lyn
Shenna Aperocho
Kim Martorell
Shauna Pandya
John Pattison
Duncan Taylor
Sean Welling
Gary Wicentowich

STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR
Engineering Students' Society

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AWARD
Engineers Without Borders

RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR
Lester Hall Students' Association

HONORABLE MENTION
East Campus Students' Association

BEST EVENT
Forest Society's "Lager Sports"

HONORABLE MENTION
Engineering Students' Society's "Geer Week"

OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • Tuesday, 28 March, 2006

War zones not the place to get in the way

THREE YEARS AGO, Canada declined to take on a military role in Iraq, a decision for which most Canadians are likely now thankful. The decision was controversial to some who believed that Canada was backing out of a crucial part of the "War on Terror," but as Iraq descends deeper into chaos and civil war, our decision to keep our troops at home seems appropriate.

However, not all Canadians have escaped the war zone. The highly publicized rescue of Canadians James Loney and Harmeet Singh Sooden—both hostages in Iraq for 118 days—has caught the attention of the news media, and brought to light the civilians taking part in the war in Iraq. In this case, they were civilians working through the international Christian Peacemaker Teams.

The Christian Peacemaker Teams is a civilian group that leads to war zones and other highly dangerous environments to decrease fighting by monitoring human rights violations, promoting nonviolence and acting as human shields. On their website they describe part of their mission as "getting in the way."

The two Canadians, along with a Brit and an American, were captured on this mission while visiting a Mosque at the end of November, and were finally rescued last Thursday (23 March). And, while the fanfare surrounding their return is indeed deserved, I view their ordeal with limited sympathy.

If the soldiers fighting in the Iraq war are James Bond, the Christian Peacemaker Teams strike me as the equivalent of the ever-getting-captured Bond girls, falling into harm's way, and forcing 007 to double back and rescue them from the peril they have gotten themselves in to. No, these individuals weren't doing anything so egregious as warrant kidnapping, but they're also not working with troubled kids or trying to lay down the law in a rowdy part of town. It's a war zone, and that alone should be reason enough for them to stay out.

Humanitarian efforts have their place, but when car bombings, assassinations and beheadings are commonplace, it isn't the role of these individuals or organizations to try to settle things down or "get in the way." While they might see themselves as making a brave sacrifice for their beliefs, they're risking the lives of those whose duty it is to be there.

You see, their rescue in Iraq was taken by soldiers, whereas their kidnapping was partially the result of their own reckless decisions. Not only did American and British soldiers take part in this missions, but so did members of Joint Task Force Two, the Canadian special forces unit that shouldn't have been anywhere near a combat situation in Iraq. One wonders if their decision to travel the dangerous streets of Iraq and "get in the way" would have been worthwhile if a Canadian soldier was killed rescuing them.

For the finishing touch, the Christian Peacemaker Teams didn't thank the rescuers in their initial statements, and only later was any appreciation for the rescue communicated to the media.

It might be time for the Christian Peacemaker Teams to abandon their idea of the getting in the way and just get out all together.

MIKE LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Editor

How's my bomb look?

ON MONDAY, 27 MARCH, an admitted al-Qaeda conspirator named Zacarias Massouf confessed that he and Richard Reid—famous for having unsuccessfully attempted to detonate his shoes on a plane—were to have hijacked a fifth plane on 11 September, 2001.

He signed his guilty plea as "the 20th hijacker," because that was what some had called him, and it was "a bit of fun." In a way, I had always kind of thought that the hijackers, if misguided, were at least intelligent, and fighting for a cause they believed in. So it's a little upsetting to see that they were just vain idiots.

TIM PEPPIN
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

Lettner expands on Board of Governors affordability resolution

I think it's wise to clarify the implications of the recent student-sponsored resolution on affordability passed at the Board of Governors meeting Friday, 17 March. The passing of the resolution is a step forward in developing a joint approach and collaborative action plan among the three key stakeholders: undergrads, grad students and university administration. This may or may not include a specific tuition policy.

Outside of a tuition policy, a lot can still be accomplished, whether it's through joint presentations to key government committees, or the development of a new overall funding strategy for universities. It's a strong step forward to achieving a collaborative, cooperative approach that ensures student affordability isn't sacrificed for outstanding quality, and widespread accessibility, but instead that improvements are realized together in all three areas in a complementary way.

GRAHAM LETTNER
SU President

Toxic terminator seeds not realistic

I am impressed. In his 23 March article (Re "Canada shouldn't support terminator seeds") Tim Peppin managed some logical arguments that would make David Suzuki blush. Terminator seeds produce infertile offspring, therefore those offspring must be full of toxin? Terminator seeds are a bad idea for a number of reasons, but the proposition that they will "be hugely destructive to natural ecosystems" as a result of the "destructive toxin" they contain is ludicrous.

The idea that an evil corporation is going to pollute humanity's food source with poison beetles in a bad movie, not in the pages of a newspaper. Crops are grown for animals and humans to eat. Farmers are not going to grow, and corporations are not going to develop, crops that have no marketable value because they're full of poison.

Sensationalist arguments like yours obscure valid points and allow corporations like Monsanto to dismiss all dissenters as ignorant, pot-smoking hippies. So before you write another article about agriculture Mr. Peppin, please take a biology class. Or better yet, talk to one of those "poor farmers" you're so concerned for.

BOB LATIMER
Science II

Whose rights more important—smokers' or non-smokers'?

I've heard it all: violation of student rights, economic problems, withdrawal symptoms and lack of motivation to quit... all as a result of a campus-wide smoke ban. I've made it to my final year suppressing my opinions of the articles I've read in the Gateway, but I guess with weeks to go I finally gave in!



I'm much better than you, Troughton

I know this will come as a morale-crushing revelation, but for me to allow you, Jake Troughton, to continue to exist in your current state of blissful unawareness would be an even greater tragedy. You see, Jake, in every respect, you're my status bitch.

Let's begin with your education. You will soon have a degree even though you failed to attend class or read your textbooks. Yawn. I already have two degrees (one with High Honours and one with Distinction) that I received after doing even less work than you. Further, I am mere months from receiving a third degree despite me neglecting the course requirements.

Next, we shall explore the issue of your tastes. You are a nerd in every category? Very well, but I do not need to verse myself in any field, as I know that my opinions alone can carry me through any argument and convince my unworthy opponent of his or her error. From their names alone, I can give you ten reasons why Cordelia Chase is better than Princess Leia. I have no doubt that you fail to grasp how the very nature of the game of football is aiding in bringing about the Marxist revolution.

Finally, there is the matter of your having hoisted a national hockey championship trophy without having done anything to earn that honour. Pathetic. I have done the same thing with the Stanley Cup despite not being connected to it being obtained in any way. This is not a matter of having done the same thing with different but equal trophies. The Stanley Cup is clearly the better of the two.

I could go on, and I will. My cologne is more expensive than yours. The body odour it covers, more pungent.

My body hair is fuller and thicker. My waxes, more intimate. In a host of other ways, I am your social better. Were I alone in this, I could perhaps let you continue holding your mistaken belief. There are a great many more, some who may not respond in my calm manner. For that, you're welcome.

KELLY ONYSKEVICH
Grad Studies I

Prusakowski's student politics article glosses over facts

Last Thursday, Ross Prusakowski opined that last year's SU Exec was a "train wreck," and that this year's VPs were "first class," but that President Graham Lettner has undermined them (Re: "Vice-presidents kept SU on the rails"). Ross ignores the facts and needs to be corrected.

Ross claims, without presenting evidence, that Jason Tobias skew the SU's "organizational malaise." I see a PowerPlant losing money, an SU budget continuing to grow faster than inflation and a marketing department that's still a source of frustration. While Jason deserves credit for incremental progress and for working on a new plan for the PowerPlant, the same was true about his predecessor. While I think Jason was better than his predecessor, the gap is small.

Next, Ross credits Matt Johnson for "increasing the number of exam slots per day, and [pushing] hard to get students trained to run smart classrooms." This is slightly inaccurate (exam slots weren't increased intentionally but rather as part of a pilot project on consolidated exams; and Matt's pushing to allow students to use to smart classrooms for free, not to train students to run them).

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 6

MICHELLE ASHBURNER
Math IV



gateway student journalism society
PRESENTS

GSJS Special General Meeting
Thursday, 6 April, 2006 at 6pm
Students' Union Building (Room TBA)

All members of the Society are encouraged to attend.

The purpose of meeting is for the election of volunteer representatives to the Society's 2006/2007 Board of Directors.

Society Members are those with five contributions in the 365 days prior to the meeting who have opted-in with a Gateway editor. If you have five contributions in the 365 days prior to the meeting but have not opted-in, you may do so at the meeting.

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gateway student journalism society

STUDENT-AT-LARGE REQUIRED

The Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) requires a student-at-large from the University community to serve on its board of directors for the term ending 30 April, 2007.

Applicants must be U of A undergraduate students and may not be members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, Board of Governors, or the Senate of the University of Alberta.

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on what makes you a good candidate for this position no later than noon on Monday, 3 April, 2006 to the Chair of the GSJS board. Submissions can be made by e-mail to adam@gateway.ualberta.ca, or through the campus mail to Adam Rozenhart, c/o Gateway Student Journalism Society, 3-04 SUB.

Please outline previous volunteer experience and not-for-profit organization experience if applicable (though none is explicitly required).

Hey Nexopia, turn down teh suck



MIKE
KENDRICK

"You've produced nothing but a den of debauchery! My God, I can see that 16-year-old girl's nipples through her shirt! No longer are you used for sharing the deets on the weekend's hottest hookups, but, rather, to provide a test for all of those filthy vermin to suckle upon ..."

So, I was surfing the Internet's the other day, and amidst my nightly ventures through the delightful FARK forums and keeping tabs on my kinkatual pornographic down-loadery, an acquaintance sent me an instant message over the ever-useful Microsoft Instant Messenger Executable, colloquially known to the keeners as MSN: "check ur nex"

What lol! My first instinct was to reach for that fleshy tube connecting my head to my shoulders, but after finding nothing wrong there, my next logical assumption was that I should open my Rirefox web browsing platform to investigate. Indeed, this individual was referring to the dank pit of locally produced faux-artsy cam-whores and emo kids known as Nexopia. As one of the bulwarks of the online profile website genre, this little gem has, in large part, been responsible for the decay of the Internet as a whole, and the cause of much angst on the part of internet 1337-ists such as myself.

Oh Nexopia, where did you ever go wrong? You started with such humble origins. You were born innocent, as EnterNexus. You strove to connect those local teenagers without any common ground, and gave them a

way to digitally swap their irritatingly inspirational song lyrics and grad photos of people I hate. Curses to those studs on LiveJournal! What would a Blogger from Maryland know about your local scene? This was your space, and was long before a Californian gentleman named Tom shut out the coding that eventually became MySpace.

Sadly, as you reached adolescence, you became curious, and started hanging out with the wrong crowds. Not only did your friends use you to deliver messages between them—those far too personal to be shared in person—but you now became the shoulder to cry on whenever someone just couldn't be understood, and the virtual bulletin board on which all of your companions could post their most horrendously animated personal avatars!

And now, you've grown into a full-figured, voluptuously fertile monstrosity. Have you looked at yourself lately? You've produced nothing but a den of debauchery! My God, I can see that 16-year-old girl's nipples through her shirt! No longer are you used for sharing the deets on the weekend's hottest hookups, but, rather, to provide a test for all of those filthy vermin to suckle upon when they're torn away

from the technological convenience of their SMS-enabled text-messaging cellular telephones! OMG! A/S/L!

For shame, Nexopia! In my day, we had ICQ, and we were pleased with its early breakthrough! Who needs the miles-long friends lists of those you met through your brother's girlfriend's cousin's nephew's lawyer's parole officer? What meaning does a page counter have if you're just mindlessly hitting refresh in a desperate effort to see refresh? Oh, Nexopia, you just can't seem to please me.

Though I can't help but admit, I'm mildly curious as to the contents of this MSN communication notice now blinking in my taskbar. Years of webarific tomfoolery have trained me well—a newly received message simply cannot go untouched: "haven't seen u in forever miss u!"

But...but...you could have achieved the same electronic correspondence to me via MSN! Your system of reverse logic confounds and enrages me! Perhaps it's not Nexopia that corrupts you, but those like you who corrupt Nexopia. Simply put, the fabric of my entire digital reality has been torn to shreds! Well, you, my friend, can cram it in forever miss u! I'm going to check my Facebook.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Last year's VP, Lisa McLaughlin, had her own set of accomplishments (for example, 24/7 SUB; extending the add/drop deadline over spring/summer; helping initiate the consolidated exam push). I think Mat has been on par with Lisa, both have done reasonably well, though neither was great.

Ross credits Justin Kehoe for moving the VP Student Life position "away from just events and ... into University policy areas." First, this move happened at least five years ago. Second, Justin's predecessor, Duncan Taylor, was less focused on events than any previous VPSL. Duncan focused on student services and preparing a health plan proposal. If reform is Ross' measure of success, Duncan Taylor was stronger than Justin Kehoe.

For VP External Samantha Power, Ross writes that she wasn't "continuously holding concerts and barbecues. She ... presented the students' message in a clear and concise manner," and she made progress with the U-Pass. First her predecessor, Alex Abboud, held a single BBQ and a single concert (which was really President Jordan Blatz' project). Second, Alex created a province-wide coalition of students and academic staff, from all universities,

colleges and technical institutes.

He then led the coalition to advertise heavily during the provincial election, including on television (www.uscp.ca). Alex disseminated his message more widely and more forcefully than Samantha.

Third, Alex was the one who got the U-Pass onto the floor of City Council and who reduced the price to \$90-100/term from \$122/term. Samantha has made progress towards securing provincial funds for a pilot project, but Alex made big strides with the U-Pass. He was hardly a poor VP and, in my opinion, the better one.

Finally, claiming that Graham Letter spent the year doing "his best to counter" the work of the VPs while being more likely to "offer platitudes and make excuses than to work hard" is at the very least extreme exaggeration. Graham has made mistakes, but he is truly concerned with serving students.

This year's VPs have been moderate. But so were last year's VPs. On balance, I think last year's VPs were better, but it can be debated—the gap is relatively small. It is ridiculous, though, to claim that last year's VPs were a "train wreck," and this year's VPs are "first-class." The facts don't bear that out.

As a final comment, the Gateway is the only widely read student media outlet on campus. It has a sacred trust to ensure that students are informed enough to hold the SU accountable. The Gateway already publishes precious little on student politics and, compared to when I started as a student in 1999, students now get far too little information about their student government. If the pitance they now receive lacks truth and is devoid of evidence, Ross and the Gateway do the student body a huge disservice.

MUSTAFA HIRJI

Arts III
Engineering Alumnus

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.



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There ain't no such thing as a free ride—except on the LRT



JONN
KMECH

University students are known for several things, among them studying, partying, indecent exposure and, above all, having little money. As any other university student with a loosely tied trenchcoat and a good vantage point in the bushes can attest to, we don't have a lot of money to spend on things that aren't necessities. When I do spend money, I want it to count towards something useful. However, when I buy LRT tickets, I don't feel like I'm spending my money on something useful, because currently, it's just too easy to cheat the system.

Like the good citizen that I am, when I'm not robbing lingerie stores, I always buy an LRT ticket. Well, actually, that's a lie. There have probably been one or two times that I've been a badass and snuck on ticket-free. But, for the most part, I'm honest. In general, I've used the LRT about four times a week for all seven months of the school year: not enough to warrant a pass purchase, but enough to get pretty. Through all of my LRT trips this year, I've had my ticket randomly checked only once. I could take this to mean that I've just been lucky to not have my ticket checked, but I think my experience may signify a larger problem.

The LRT essentially has an honour system in place, which works fine if everyone is honourable, but this isn't always the case. Thus, we have ETS officers, part of whose job description is to randomly check tickets. However, I rarely see officers on the train, or even in the stations, and the time I was approached was the only

time that I've ever actually seen an ETS officer checking tickets. Now, maybe someone who rides the LRT more than I do can argue this, but I'd think that in seven months of fairly regular use, I'd see more than one random ticket check.

While the ETS website says that you're subject to a \$110 fine for fare evasion if caught, this doesn't phase anyone if they see that checks are hardly ever made. In reality, this system essentially punishes people who do buy tickets by not acknowledging that they're paying and contributing for use of the service. Sure, I'd get a \$110 fine if I was caught without a pass, but in my seven months of riding ETS, I've definitely spent more than that on tickets. If this is the message that's sent to people, then there's more motivation to risk the fine instead of paying up front for a ticket.

I know I may be trying to ruin the party for some who regularly use the LRT without paying, but I don't care, because, in the end, it will hurt you,



This burlap sack goes out to the girl who was on the #6 bus at 11:35 am, 27 March. I don't usually have a problem with people using their cellphones in public. But when you start a conversation with "Don't tell anyone this," you probably shouldn't have it in public.

This girl on my bus yesterday discussed her friend Lisa, who, while sleeping at the girl's house, urinated on the couch. Apparently, this Lisa has some sort of sleep-bladder problem, and didn't bring "what she wears at home" with her to cell phone girls' house, and went wee-wee unprop-

ted. Lisa, seeing the pee-pee, decided to ignore it, and went back to sleep.

Now, Lisa, I understand that you can't control when and where you go widdle, but you can control how it affects your friends' couches and, in a follow-up story, beds.

As for cell-phone girl, let this be a lesson to you: if you want to have secret conversations, make sure you don't do it in the vicinity of someone who can expose you. And, when you're in there, don't piss in the sack!

RAMIN OSTAD

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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SPORTS

Bears net gold medal

BEARS WIN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Bears faced a much stiffer test in the talented McGill Redmen. On the strength of incredible goaltending by OUA Most Outstanding Player Mathieu Poitras, McGill entered the third period trailing 2-1. However, the Bears' 26-0-2 record when entering the third period with a lead this season came into play. Alberta exploited Poitras with a three-goal outburst in the third and rolled to a 5-1 victory. This set the stage for the final on Sunday, where the Bears met Lakehead for the University Cup.

Lakehead came out flying on Sunday night in an attempt to set the defending champs on their heels. The Thunderwolves drew a penalty and scored on the ensuing power play just 1:16 in to the game. The Bears kept their composure, though, and evened things up when second-year forward Tobias Wiseman found himself alone in front of the net to bang in a rebound off a Mike Jacobsen point shot. The Bears then turned the Thunderwolves' game plan on them and struck twice more in the first period to take a 3-1 lead into the intermission. Tournament MVP Harlan Anderson credited the team's experience for the team's response to Lakehead's early goal.

"We've been here before," he said. "They came out and got a big goal, but we didn't panic, and we came back with three goals of our own."

After a flurry of activity in the first period, both teams seemed to settle in to their games as the pace slowed considerably, which was perhaps more of a product of it being the third game in three nights for both clubs. Lakehead crept within striking distance of the Bears at the 12:14 mark of the second period, when tournament All-Star Jeff Richards took the puck around Bears defenceman Curtis Rich and slid the puck past CIS Rookie of the Year Aaron Sorochan.

After the goal, the game entered another ten-minute lapse. Lakehead started to press for the tie in the game's final five minutes, as Sorochan had come up with a couple key saves late in the game to preserve the lead. The Bears were getting out-skated and dominated in their own end, until the puck was cleared over the glass by a Wolves defender and TSN, the national broadcaster, called a TV timeout that allowed Thurston and the Bears to gather themselves with 4:23 to go in the game.

"Thurston told us that we've got this and to go out and get it," Anderson said of what was discussed during the timeout.

On the next shift, Stanley hit the crossbar and Anderson unloaded an enormous body-check on Matt Jacques that solidified the game's momentum on the Bears' side. With less than two minutes left in the game, Thurston was hauled down on a partial breakaway, which drew a penalty and ultimately sealed the game for Alberta.

"We didn't want to change our game," said Thurston. "We didn't want to sit back; we wanted to keep pressuring them. With all that great fan support, we knew we had more in the tank. We knew we just had to keep coming."

The Thunderwolves would spend the final moments of the game in the penalty box and the Bears would not relinquish possession of the puck, as the final seconds ticked off the clock and a jubilant Bears team began a celebration that, by all accounts, will likely stretch into next weekend.

Four Bears managed to earn tournament all-star honours. Canada West Defenceman of the Year Chris Ovington and tournament MVP Harlan Anderson made up the blue line selections. Up front, the point-producing tandem of Stanley and veteran Ben Thomson were recognized for their one-two punch. Stanley felt that he and his teammates answered the challenge of the post-season like champions.

"Everybody wants to take down the top dog and we took that as a challenge. We wanted to come out and represent the U of A and the integrity it has," said Stanley.



JOSH NAULT

sports@gatewayulberta.ca • Tuesday, 28 March, 2006

Bears' Stanley turns himself into a superstar

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

With Bears' captain Gavin McLeod on the sidelines for the final two games of his CIS career, it was a given that the team would have to step up to fill in the void that the centre's charity horse created. Apparently, someone forgot to tell Bears rookie forward Dylan Stanley that he didn't have to do it all himself.

Stanley collected a tournament-high seven points (two goals, five assists) in three games this past weekend, extending his scoring streak to 25 games. The Edmonton-raised wingman saved his best performance for Sunday's championship game, as he assisted on the goal that tied the game at one and scored what would turn out to be the game winner in front of an enthusiastic crowd of over 7000 at Rexall Place.

"It's been a dream season for myself," he said after being named Player of the Game on Sunday night. "I've never imagined having anything like this."

Stanley acknowledged his point streak, but deflected its importance. While his offensive contributions have been his most obvious strength to the Bears this year, he said he would have been content to help his team out in whatever way he could.

"Dylan's skill level is phenomenal. What he can do with the puck, and his ability to play in traffic and to play both ends of the rink, he's turned into a superstar in his first year in the league."

ERIC THURSTON
BEARS HEAD COACH
ON DYLAN STANLEY

"A point streak is a point streak, but it's not going to win you a game. I want to contribute to the team in the best way that I can, and that's offence," he said. "At the same time, if I came away with zero points in the championship, I'd be celebrating just as much tonight."

After sitting out the semi-final against McGill on Saturday, McLeod dressed and warmed up with the Bears on Sunday, but was clearly too beat up to play. As he was forced to sit and watch the biggest game of his CIS career, he felt the team was still in capable hands. After playing with Stanley for a full season, McLeod wasn't surprised by his teammate's effort.

"Dylan's been our offensive trigger with [Ben Thomson] throughout the season," he said. "They stepped up at the biggest time of the year and got the job done for us."

Bears coach Eric Thurston heaped praise on Stanley, saying that after having a rookie season in where he tallied a team-high 56 points, his future as a Bear could be as bright as he wants it to be.

"Dylan's skill level is phenomenal," he said. "What he can do with the puck, and his ability to play in traffic and to play both ends of the rink, he's turned into a superstar in his first year in the league."

Stanley's performance through the weekend gave Bears fans a glimpse of what the future for the program could look like, and while the team would have liked to have had McLeod in the lineup, Stanley showed that he's more than ready to assume a serious leadership role with the Bears.

"[The program is] going to be in good hands, and the tradition here is going to continue," McLeod said.

McGill's Orr trying to make name for himself

Nephew of NHL superstar works his way back from horrible neck injury

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

Although it's only three letters, the name Orr is huge in the hockey world. Fans of yesteryear will never forget Bobby Orr flying through the air after scoring "the goal" 40 seconds into overtime in the 1970 Stanley Cup final. It's a moment forever etched in the minds of fans and immortalized in photographs as one of the greatest in hockey history.

The Bruins defenceman was most known for his skating prowess. Orr was legendary for flying down the entire length of the ice, leaving opponents in his wake, and capping it off with a goal in the opposing net. Past-forward 25 years, and a jersey with Orr emblazoned on the back could be seen flying down the ice at Clare Drake Arena last weekend at the Telus University Cup.

Number four has long since retired from hockey, but his nephew, Doug Orr, has carried on the family name while playing for the McGill Redmen. The younger Orr, who resembles his uncle, says that he doesn't mind the comparisons to Bobby Orr that he's endured since he first started playing hockey.

"Hey, to be compared to Bobby Orr is definitely an honour. Anyone who says that [I'm like him], I'll take that any day," he laughs, adding that his uncle is one of his role models. "I look up to him—he's one of my heroes."

People see the name on the back of the jersey and assume that Doug is the elite player that his uncle was. In the McGill player notes, Orr is listed as the nephew of the NHL great; however, Doug admits that the name is about the only similarity between him and his uncle. Doug is a forward and wears number 27, while Bobby played defence and wore number four. Doug also admits that his uncle had the edge in

skill on the ice.

"He was a superstar, and I know that there are good parts of my game, and I work hard to get better everyday, but to be compared to him is definitely a far stretch. Besides the looks, there aren't too many things that are comparable between us—maybe the bad knees," he jokes.

"During those two months he was injured, the team never missed a beat, because he was in the dressing room everyday, talking with the guys. He was there at games encouraging everybody and sharing in the experience with them. He was fantastic, even when he wasn't dressed. His leadership was fantastic this year and I think that was one of the reasons why we were so successful."

MARTIN RAYMOND
REDMEN HEAD COACH
ON FORWARD
DOUG ORR

His name alone hasn't guaranteed

Orr an easy ride with the Redmen, and he has worked hard each season to eventually be chosen as a McGill assistant captain. Head coach Martin Raymond says that Orr, despite his family history, has earned every minute he's played with McGill.

"He's such a hardworking kid," Raymond says. "He started with us as a guy who had to fight his way into every game to dress. You can't measure the value of a player like that in the organization, when he's having to battle to just to get into the lineup." This was Orr's final year in CIS, and he was poised to finish his university hockey career going out on top. Orr led the Redmen in scoring in the first part of the season with 21 points in 16 games, but on 20 January, he was hit from behind and suffered a concussion and neck injury, which caused the McGill forward to miss the rest of the regular season. True to his character though, Orr never gave up, and worked hard with doctors and physiotherapists to play in McGill's game against Wilfred Laurier on 23 March at the University Cup. Coach Raymond mentioned that it was tough to fill the void when Orr was injured, but added that he was still a strong leader while he recovered.

"During those two months he was injured, the team never missed a beat, because he was in the dressing room everyday, talking with the guys. He was there at games encouraging everybody and sharing in the experience with them. He was fantastic, even when he wasn't dressed," Raymond says. "His leadership was fantastic this year and I think that was one of the reasons we were so successful."

Orr said that it was tough to see his CIS hockey career come to an end on Saturday, but he plans to continue playing the game that he loves. Fans might still get to see an Orr flying down the ice in the near future.

"I'm going to move on and I definitely want to play pro hockey somewhere. I was just thinking about this tournament and this season, so I wasn't worried about that, but now I can start making plans for next year."

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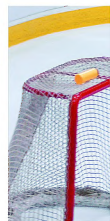
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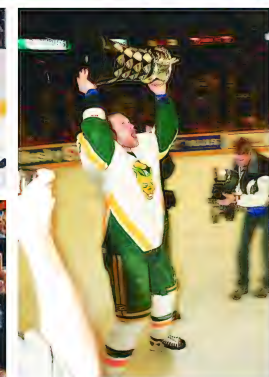
Goals were scored. Penalties were called

in the end, the University Cup was hoisted by the Golden Bears for the overall. In the process, five more of the best teams in Canada saw their eliminated was the Acadia Axemen, the Atlantic champions, who were stop the top-ranked Bears in their quest for a repeat national title. The the Saskatchewan Huskies, who lost to the Bears in overtime in the first to Lakehead by a score of 4-2. With the role of giant killer firmly fused to the championship game and awaited the winner of the McGill Red competitive hockey, the Bears decided it was time to blow the semi-final appreciation of the fans in attendance at Clare Drake Arena and for on TSN. While the Bears faced their biggest challenge of the weekend Lakehead, the Thunderwolves ran out of answers to the Bears' stingy and a raucous 7516 fans at Rexall went home happy.





ed. Bodies were painted. And
second year in a row, and a record twelfth time
seasons come to a crushing end. The first team
considered by many to be the most likely team to
other team that posed a challenge to the Bears.
final of last year's University Cup, fell on Saturday
and to their moniker, the Thunderwolves advanced
men/Golden Bears game. After 40 minutes of
game wide open in the third period, much to the
the entertainment of those watching nation-wide
and (at least the last month) in the final against
defence and potent offence. The result: a 3-2 final



Photos by Johann Brown, Josh Newlt, Nick Wiebe, Neal Wilding, Pete Yee, Tara Stieglitz and Steffi Rosskopf

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COAST TO COAST TSN was one of many sports networks who covered university sport this year. NICK WEBER

CIS enjoys big season of TV coverage

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

If you've tuned in to any of Canada's sports networks this year, you've likely seen something better than poker, bass fishing, and world's strongest man competitions. The 2005/06 CIS season received broader coverage on Canada's three major sports networks (TSN, The Score and Sportsnet) than ever before.

All three networks aired CIS football throughout the season. TSN aired its regular slew of national championships, from football to men's and women's volleyball and, most recently, the Bears' semi-final and championship hockey games. The Score gave men's basketball the most extensive coverage of any sport, airing quarter- and semi-final games along with the championship showdown between Carleton and Victoria, all live.

CIS media and marketing representative Michel Belanger said that the increased coverage has been part of an ongoing process for CIS, where they're trying to build a regular-season following through getting their product on the air as the buildup to the playoffs increases. He cited the high ratings of the CIS football bowl games and the Vanier Cup as proof that this plan is working.

"It's all about getting our product out there," he said. "I'm in the organization, and maybe I think [CIS football] is bigger than it really is, but I like to think that our football is now at a level where people know what it is. You tell the average Joe on the street about CIS football and he'll recognize the McMaster Marauders and Jesse Lumsden. CIS football has now become, we like to think, a household name. That said, I think it can still grow—we want to make it bigger, and that's what we want to do with our other sports."

It seems that the next sport Belanger is talking about making bigger would be basketball. Due to TSN's commitment to airing the women's world curling championships last weekend from Grande Prairie, CIS was forced to look elsewhere to have their basketball championships aired. While they may have turned to the network out of necessity, CIS may have stumbled into a perfect pairing with The Score, who gave the basketball Final Ten the league's most in-depth coverage of any of their sports' playoffs this season.

"Our first choice was still TSN because it has a broader audience," Belanger admitted. "But The Score was offering to do another game on the Friday night and that was big. So we moved there and were really pleased. Another thing that ties into our audience needing a buildup is that we also need to work with the broadcasters to have our product talked about on their newscast. That's what The Score has done and we've heard amazing comments about it. Throughout the week leading up to [the basketball championships], they mentioned it everyday and they made a point of it and that's the kind of

relationship that we want to build with the broadcasters.

"It's a bigger deal for The Score to show our Final Ten than it is for TSN," Belanger added. "[TSN is] fitting it into their busy schedule. For The Score, it was a big deal for them. When TSN shows the games, they do an amazing job, but they'll show the games and the highlights at night and that's it."

"TSN covered the [men's] hockey championships, but The Score covered some regular season football and they picked up basketball for the first time," said The Score's Jordi Weidman, the Edmonton correspondent for the network. "I'm not sure what the next step for them is. I could see them [covering university sports] a little bit more in the future, too."

Weidman, who was a U of A engineering student before pursuing a career in television and radio, agreed with Belanger's assessment that The Score and CIS are a great pairing.

"The Score wants to expand their live element, and instead of just going back to the studio and showing highlights, they want to show some live sports, too," he said. "It's a good partnership in that way and it matches The Score's demographic."

This past Wednesday at the Telus University Cup's press conference, Saskatchewan Huskies head coach Dave Adolph called CIS the nation's best-kept secret. Weidman echoed the coach's sentiments on Sunday night, but thought that people are slowly coming around to it.

"It's definitely a well-kept secret. We were talking about it in the press box tonight that we're surprised that people don't come out and watch it more in person," he said. "I don't think it will take that long for it to catch on, though. Last year in a lockout year they had 11,000 [fans in attendance at Rexall Place] and this year they had 7000 competing with the Oilers [who's game against Colorado was televised Sunday night]; I think that's pretty good."

Weidman added that, for CIS to continue to grow, it has to become recognizable to people outside of a university's student body—something that he credited the U of A for doing well.

"You look down in the States and they're targeting and marketing everybody. That's probably one of the toughest obstacles they have right now; I think a lot of schools have just gone after their student body and marketed it and pushed the sport that way. They [need to] start branching out. I don't know how they would do it better here; I think they're doing a pretty good job."

Belanger is confident that CIS is taking the appropriate steps to get their product exposed to a larger market, and in the next few years, he expects its popularity to grow.

"We think there's something there and we're going to make it happen. I'm pretty convinced that we're going to have basketball on TV next year. It's about getting our product out there. The more people that see our product, the more people will watch."

Huskies put down quickly

Lack of goal-scoring has last year's University Cup finalists bowing out early in 2006 tournament

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The Saskatchewan Huskies found their finish for one period. In a national championship, that just wasn't enough.

After being ranked first in the country for ten consecutive weeks early in the season, the Huskies suddenly found themselves struggling to score following the Christmas break, eventually falling to the tournament's fifth seed by the time the University Cup rolled around. Ultimately, in cost them a return trip to the gold-medal game and a shot at redemption after a heart-breaking overtime loss to the Golden Bears a year earlier.

"CIS hockey is phenomenal, and the further you go the better the chance someone's going to get their heart ripped out," said Huskies head coach Dave Adolph. "We don't have a chance to play [in the final], and that's going to piss me off for another 365 days." For one all-too-brief period, everything seemed right again, as the Huskies scored four times in the third to upset the second-seeded Acadia Axemen 5-1 in the opening game of the tournament on Thursday.

Saturday, though, the team found themselves struggling with the offensive woes that have defined the team's second half. They fired an impressive 20 shots at Lakehead Thunderwolves goaltender Chris Whitley in the first period, but simply couldn't score.

"After the first ten or twelve minutes we had, I thought it was going to go our way, but unfortunately it didn't,"

said Adolph. "That's been our whole second half. We rediscovered our scoring against Acadia, but [against Lakehead] we had lots of opportunities and just couldn't bury our chances. ... I don't know how many times we shot it straight into the goalie's glove."

In the end, the Huskies dropped a 4-2 decision to Lakehead to end their tournament, despite getting 41 shots overall, and were left wondering what went wrong, knowing they played well and unsure why it didn't translate onto the scoreboard.

"In this tournament, you've got to be on top of your game, and I thought we were; we just couldn't buy one," said Huskies forward Brent Twardik.

"We've had trouble scoring goals, and that happened again [Saturday]," added forward Dean Beuker. "We worked hard, but sometimes that just doesn't cut it."

Saskatchewan will lose a few key players to graduation, including Beuker, goaltender Thomas Vicars, defenceman Dean Serdachny, and likely forward Keegan McCaoy, though all still have a year of CIS eligibility remaining. With such minimal turnover, though, the Huskies will have a good opportunity to build on this year and earn another shot at the University Cup.

"I'm going to try my damndest to get [McAoy] to stick around, but guys have got to carry on with their lives," said Adolph. "We should only lose four players, and we're strong every year. You've just got to find players to fill those spots, and you need your way back to take another shot at it."

Thunderwolves' progress in five-year span impressive

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The Lakehead Thunderwolves men's hockey program has come a long way in the five years since its inception, but on Sunday their fast start was no match for the Golden Bears' history.

Lakehead was playing in its first University Cup championship game—quite an accomplishment for such a young program, given the extremely competitive nature of CIS men's hockey. The Bears, though, had won eleven titles, and the Thunderwolves were unable to stop the Bears from earning their twelfth. Chalk it up as a learning experience for the Thunder Bay squad, who only have three players completing their final year of CIS eligibility.

"I think we'll be here again, and hopefully we'll come out on the other side of it," said Thunderwolves goaltender Chris Whitley, who was the tournament all-star in goal. "I know there's a lot of teams that could be around for ten, 15, 20 years and not get anywhere near a championship, and this team's accomplished a bit in five years."

Lakehead was one of the underdogs heading into the tournament, perhaps understandably, but they more than proved themselves with convincing wins over Acadia and Saskatchewan to earn their trip to the final.

"I didn't think they were underdogs," said Bears head coach Eric Thurston. "They got great goaltending, and in the second and third, they really shut the door on us. ... They had very tough games here and during the year, and [Thunderwolves head coach] Pete Belliveau had those guys prepared very well."

Like their program's history, the Thunderwolves' game on Sunday got off to a quick start, with a power-play



BIG STRIDES Chris Whitley (in goal) and his teammates have come a long way.

goal by forward Tobias Whelan, giving them a 1-0 lead just 1:16 into the game. But Alberta scored all three of their goals less than five minutes later in the period, and while Lakehead managed to stay close to the Bears—which no other team was able to do this post-season—they just didn't have enough to match the defending champions.

The Thunderwolves started to pile on the pressure in the last ten minutes of the game, refusing to fold late as so many teams have against the Bears. But two late penalties left them short-handed for the last four minutes of the game, essentially ending their chances of tying the game, though a last-second charge with the goal pulled came close to succeeding.

"We just ran out of time," said Belliveau. "I had no problem with

the penalties; it's the non-calls after that. [The referee] could have given [Alberta] one and it would've been four-on-four. He has to look himself in the mirror in the morning, and he knows in his heart there was a call he should've made."

As tough as it is to lose in a national championship game, the Thunderwolves have a lot of reason for optimism going forward. They'll have most of their team back next year and they've already shown they can compete with the best team in the country like few teams can.

"We belonged here," said Thunderwolves forward Jeff Richards, who was also named a tournament all-star. "We're going to feel a lot better next year, knowing what it takes to be here."

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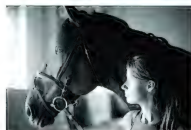
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Information Services/ Academic Guidance Centre Operations Coordinator (2 Positions)

Term: May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007
Hours: May 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007 (35 hours/week)
September 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007 (25 hours/week)
Remuneration: May 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007 (\$1302/month)
September 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007 (\$1066/month)

Description: The Operations Coordinators at Information Services/ Academic Guidance Centre are responsible to the Manager and will perform the following duties including, but not limited to: handling and reconciling all cash, debit and credit card transactions from the main office and four satellite information desks; distribution of tickets for campus events as well as ETS bus passes and bus tickets. In addition, the Operations Coordinators will be responsible for specific projects as assigned by the Manager. All Coordinators will share responsibility for day-to-day staff supervision and management.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 10 starting at 4:30pm

Information Services/ Academic Guidance Centre Resources Coordinator (1 Position)

Term: May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007
Hours: May 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007 (35 hours/week)
September 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007 (25 hours/week)
Remuneration: May 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007 (\$1302/month)
September 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007 (\$1066/month)

Description: The Resources Coordinator at Information Services/ Academic Guidance Centre is responsible to the Manager and will perform the following duties including, but not limited to: management of all office resources, including Academic Guidance Centre Resource Manuals, Information Services Resource Manuals and brochures, both in the main office and at the satellite desks and administration of all databases and service websites. In addition, the Resources Coordinator will be responsible for specific projects as assigned by the Manager. All Coordinators will share responsibility for day-to-day staff supervision and management.

Interviews Scheduled for Saturday, April 8 starting at 3pm

Safewalk

Associate Director

Term: August 15, 2006 – April 30, 2007
Hours: 20 hours/week
Remuneration: \$335 - August
\$670 - September to April

Description: The AD is responsible for the technical component of the service, upkeep and maintenance of equipment, providing supplemental training for dispatch volunteers and other duties as outlined in the employment contract and as may be specified by time to time by the Director of Safewalk.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, starting at 5:00pm.

Centre For Student Development

Administrative Coordinator

Term: May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007
Hours: May 1, 2006 – August 31, 2006 (35 hours/wk)
September 1 – September 30, 2006 (25 hours/week)
Remuneration: May 1, 2006 – August 31, 2006 (\$1302/month)
September 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007 (\$1066/month)

Description: Duties of the AC include, but are not limited to: coordinating the student registration process; coordinating room bookings on campus; maintaining a particular database; working closely with the Orientation Team. Expertise in the following areas would be considered assets: database experience (specifically with Filemaker Pro), working with the public, some office administrative experience, as well as an understanding of the Programs offered through the CSD.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 3, starting at 4:00pm.

Campus Ambassador Coordinator

Term: May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007
Hours: May 1, 2006 – August 31, 2006 (35 hours/week)
September 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007 (25 hours/week)
Remuneration: May 1, 2006 – August 31, 2006 (\$1302/month)
September 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007 (\$1066/month)

Description: The CAC is responsible for coordinating and marketing the Campus Ambassador Program. Responsibilities also include recruitment and training of all volunteer tour guides, First Year Initiative mentors, and volunteer for the U of A open House. The CAC is also responsible for the marketing, implementation and coordination of the First Year Initiative student for a day program. On a daily basis the CAC is responsible for booking tours with interested parties, and ensuring that tours booked through their office as well as the office of the Registrar and Student Awards are assigned a Campus Ambassador tour guide.

Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 7, starting at 4:00pm.

Associate Director – Student Group Services

Term: August 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007
Hours: August 1 – 31, 2006 & April 1 – 30, 2007 (10 hours/week)
September 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007 (20 hours/week)
Remuneration: August 1 – 31, 2006 & April 1 – 30, 2007 (\$343/month)
September 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007 (\$687/month)

Description: The Student Group Services Associate Director is responsible to the Student Group Services Director and assists in promoting cooperation and coordination among Student Groups. This individual will also aid in the daily administrative operations of the Student Group Services office including, but not limited to the regular updating of the Student Group Services Database, updating the service website, and assisting with the registration and granting processes.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 10, starting at 7:00pm.

Student Distress Centre

Team Lead – 2 Positions available

Term: August 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007
Hours: 10 hours/week
Remuneration: \$342/month

Description: The SDC Team Leaders are responsible to the SDC Director and works closely with the Director in overseeing the organization and operations of SDC. While sharing many similar duties such as interviewing, training and appreciating volunteers, there are individual responsibilities allocated to each Team Leader. One Team leader is responsible for volunteer scheduling and resource library management, and the other is responsible for updating call/drop-in statistics and organizing education and awareness booths. In your cover letter for these positions please indicate which position you are most interested in.

Interviews scheduled for Saturday, April 8, starting at 10:00am.

Associate Director – ECOS

Term: May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007
Hours: 10 hours/week
Remuneration: \$342/month

Description: The ECOS Associate Director will perform the following duties including but not limited to: the managing and coordination of ECOS volunteers, providing assistance in the research, development, and facilitation of the ECOS projects. In addition, the ECOS Associate Director will work on specific projects at the direction of the ECOS Director.

Interviews scheduled for Saturday, April 8, starting at 12:30pm.

Studio Theatre presents a play worth dying for



BARBARA CHENG

REACH OUT, FEEL THE EMOTION Studio Theatre's latest play opens this Thursday at the Timms Centre.

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Written by Howard Barker

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March 30–April 8

Timms Centre

LACINA DESJARDIS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Going against the grain is never easy. Popular opinion is just that—popular—and resolving your moral decisions with the desire of your bosses, superiors and the general public is a task no one finds easy. The U of A's Studio Theatre, however, has taken up the challenge—or at least they do in their latest play, *Scenes From an Execution*.

The drama department's latest production focuses on Galactia, a left-leaning female painter who is commissioned by the state of Venice to paint a reflection of one of the state's great naval victories. Galactia, opposed to the ongoing war, faces a struggle to depict a triumphant Venetian victory and the real brutality that occurred during the battle. Her finished work has her facing prosecution from the government and even threatened with death.

"Just as the government has a responsibility to conduct itself honorably, so do artists... if I only condemn, condemn, condemn, am I really telling the entire story?"

SHANNON BLANCHET

While *Scenes from an Execution* does seem to be based on the issue of art censorship and patronage, actress Shannon Blanchet, who plays Galactia's sketchbook, affirms that the production is about much more than controlling art.

"It's largely about responsibility, and using your

power and your voice in a responsible way," says Blanchet.

This issue is applicable not only to the play, but also to our governments and artists who, intentionally or not, can present one side of a complex issue. While the play isn't aiming to make a statement about any particular current event, it does strive to highlight the need for artists and the government to present all sides of the issues.

"Just as the government has a responsibility to conduct itself honorably, so do artists," says Blanchet. "[As an artist], if I only condemn, condemn, condemn, am I really telling the entire story? Is it my responsibility to tell a more complete version of the story than just the fact that I disagree with it?"

However, despite its politically charged subject matter, *Scenes from an Execution* promises more than just a political and philosophical debate. The play also explores the themes of power, sexuality and human motivation.

For the actors at Studio Theatre, however, bringing the play to life was about more than just tackling tough issues. According to Blanchet, the transition from concept to reality required the cast to learn how to work on a set that presented its own unique challenges, like having to be in motion both on and off stage—especially with the intricate set being used for *Execution*.

"[Moving onto the set] was a big adjustment, because there's a lot of climbing," says Blanchet.

"It's been a good challenge for us to have in our final year before going out in the world, to have to work with a set where you have to be a little more conscious of what's safe, what's not safe and whether your costume is going to get caught on something and send you flying."

While actors flying haphazardly across the stage will most likely be missing from the performances, the crew working on the play is hoping audiences will get a dose of thought-provoking theatre. No matter how the crowd receives it, though, Blanchet and her fellow actors will have to take the praise with the criticism. When you have a play about art, censorship and bias, it's the variety of opinion—both positive and negative—that make all the difference.

Lightweight World's Fastest Indian speeds towards success

The World's Fastest Indian

Directed by Roger Donaldson

Starring Anthony Hopkins, Soginaw Grant and Diane Ladd

Now playing at The Princess Theatre

DANA KOMPERDO
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Some movies get simply defined as feel-good movies, and with good cause. They're made to leave an audience feeling happy, and it's often not too hard to succeed in that goal. *The World's Fastest Indian* definitely falls into this category, but also succeeds in telling a story that goes beyond a happy ending. It will both entertain you and leave you in a good mood, but also tell you a story that, unlike many of films of this type, is inspiring and fascinating enough to warrant its telling beyond its heartwarming nature.

The film tells the true story of New Zealand's Burt Munro (Anthony Hopkins) as he attempts to achieve his 25-year dream of travelling to the United States to take part in Speed Week at the Utah Salt Flats. His 1920 Indian motorcycle has been finely tuned by his own innovations, using such items as a cork from a Brandy bottle to tweak the performance—and he believes that he can set a land speed record in Utah. The film is largely a story of his journey, as Munro meets and gets help from a number of characters as he travels from Los Angeles to Bonneville, Utah. A transvestite helps him navigate his way through LA, a saucy older lady helps him fix his trailer and he gives a ride to

a young soldier from Vietnam, all the while exchanging bits of advice and worldly learning. The trip from New Zealand to Utah leads to suspenseful Speed Week climax, as Munro puts his home-tooled motorbike up against the top American machines.

Strong emotions permeate the movie, exuding through Hopkins' subtle, skilful acting and, in this case, a charming New Zealand accent. Making an entertaining feature out of an old man travelling across the country is a challenging task, especially when using, say, gun-fights or car chases are unusable. However, *The World's Fastest Indian* does this wonderfully, with Munro finding people to give him a helping hand while inspiring them in return with the kind of wisdom and anecdotes that only an old man can provide.

The film is filled with such heartwarming scenes and lighthearted, funny lines, especially from the extremely affable Munro. A likeable and identifiable character, Munro easily makes friends with everyone he comes across, including, in this case, the audience. Hopkins gives his character a life beyond the typical nice-old-man demeanour that Hopkins is known for. The result is a strong character that allows the audience to feel at ease in cheering him on.

Australian writer and director Roger Donaldson creates a wonderful world out of Munro's hometown while managing to show a compelling view of America from an outsider's perspective. The film's aesthetics draw the audience into the story and makes them actually care about an event they otherwise likely wouldn't know about. While Munro is racing,



he is on the New Zealand beach or the salt flats of Utah, the camera stays with him from different angles, creating not only a feeling of speed and exhilaration, but also an engagement with the competition that is crucial to any movie of this type.

This film is an excellent choice if you want to

come out of it feeling not only happy, but also that you haven't wasted two hours watching a mere feel-good film. *The World's Fastest Indian* is a strongly acted, carefully crafted film that will probably not get the reception it deserves. Playing only at The Princess Theatre, this film is easily worthy of a wider release.

Inside Man holds audience captive with puzzling plot

Inside Man

Directed by Spike Lee
Starring Denzel Washington, Clive Owen, Jodie Foster, Christopher Plummer and Willem Dafoe
Now Playing

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Spike Lee's latest thriller *Inside Man* is a lot like assembling a complicated jigsaw puzzle—the pieces are confusing and none of them seem to fit together at first, but the reward of the process comes from seeing everything fall into place, revealing the entire picture. While not as politically charged as his previous films, such as *Do the Right Thing* or *Malcolm X*, *Inside Man* still manages to pack more political undertones and social commentary than the average Hollywood film, and a final solution to the puzzle that makes fitting the pieces together well worth your while.

The movie opens with an aside by the antagonist (or protagonist, as the case may be) Dalton Russell (Clive Owen) telling the audience about his story, his "imprisonment" and the importance of remembering his surname. The plot is then rewound to the film's central premise: a bank robbery. Russell, along with a small crew, occupies a bank in the heart of New York's Manhattan district. Dressed up as a group of masked painters, the crew enters the bank and holds personnel and customers hostage at gunpoint.

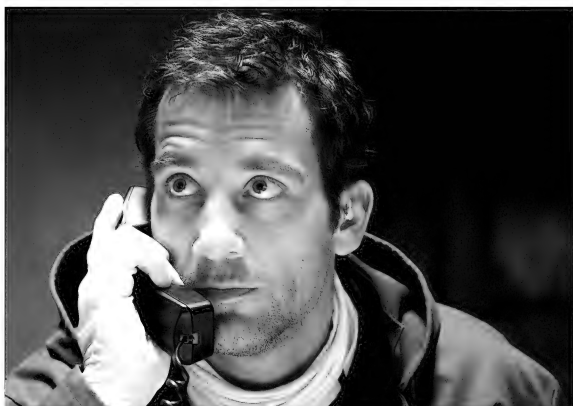
The hostage situation soon escalates into an intense standoff with the arrival of the police and veteran

hostage negotiator Detective Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington)—who's still dealing with the failure of a previous rescue operation. Frazier is also plagued with personal problems, including his desire for a promotion and a pay raise, troubled personal relationships and irate co-workers like NYPD captain John Darius (Willem Dafoe).

The complicated puzzle pieces set up in *Inside Man* are easily what make the movie worthwhile...but unlike a puzzle, *Inside Man*'s unpredictable payoff is much better than a finished, pretty picture.

Frazier's life is further complicated by the cunning unpredictability of Russell. Not only is it difficult for snipers to locate, target and shoot the masked perpetrators, but when all the hostages are forced to wear the same coveralls and masks worn by the bank robbers, the diversion makes it difficult for the police and snipers to discriminate between friend and foe. Russell uses this confusion to achieve his real goal—a secret that Frazier must illuminate if he wants to understand the whole situation.

No Spike Lee film would be



complete without a few scenes of social and political commentary, and Lee injects *Inside Man* with more than a few pointed scenes. One controversial scene includes the release of a turban-wearing Sikh hostage, a security guard at the bank. Not only do the police initially confuse him for "an Arab," but they also forcefully remove the innocent young man of his turban. Despite this contentious encounter, the man manages to make political statements regarding the treatment of minorities in post 9/11 America—comments about the refusal of civil liberties, racial

profiling and mistreatment by local authorities and so-called "random" security checks at airports. But Lee also makes a statement that, while the colour of money does not discriminate, anyone—whatever race, creed, or skin colour—can be subject to intense scrutiny, interrogation and discrimination by the local authorities and government.

But despite all the commentary and violence throughout *Inside Man*, the film also manages its humorous moments. Whether it's the scene of the bank robbers forcing an old lady to strip down to her undergarments,

Russell complaining about violence in video games or Frazier jokingly accusing hostages of being the perpetrators, Lee successfully proves that thrillers can be both serious and funny at the same time.

The complicated puzzle pieces set up in *Inside Man* are easily what make the movie worthwhile. It may take a while to piece together all of the film's events and completely figure out the film's complicated plot, but unlike a puzzle, *Inside Man*'s unpredictable payoff is much better than a finished, pretty picture.

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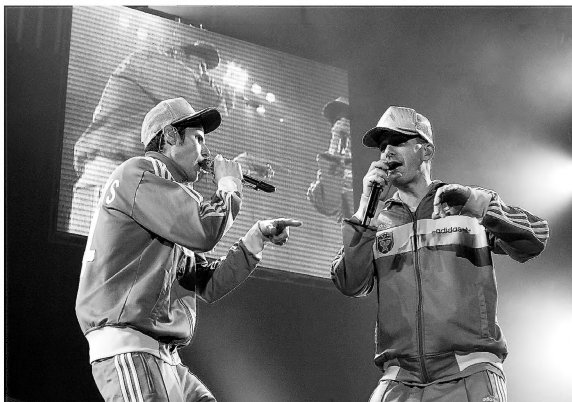
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Why did they fuckin' shoot this?

Beastie Boys documentary might interest dedicated fans, but that's about it

Awesome! Fuckin' Shot That!

Directed by Adam "Ad-Rock" Yauch
Starring Mike "D" Diamond, Adam "MCA" Yauch and Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz

Now Playing

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Catching a favourite band live is always an exciting occasion. The pre-show anticipation, the swarms of chattering fans congregating upon arrival and the post-concert adrenaline rush are just a few of the things that produce the exhilarating air of excitement experienced by concertgoers. Undoubtedly, it's the atmosphere created by live performances that makes them so unbelievably attractive, and without all the hype surrounding the coming of a choice band, they wouldn't be as entertaining as they are.

While it's safe to say that, in terms of concerts, the thrill of enjoying an evening drinking with friends and dancing to music is something that's definitely looked forward to, watching a prerecorded show just doesn't produce the same effect. And in the case of the Beastie Boys' film—or concert documentary, if you will—*Awsesome! I Fuckin' Shot That*, that familiar concert high is unfortunately absent.

The Beastie Boys, a renowned rap group and perhaps the most influential white rappers in the genre's history, have attempted to redefine the cate-

gory of concert documentary with their new movie, but unfortunately with little success. Directed by Beastie Boy Adam Yauch, *Awsesome! I Fuckin' Shot That* is a film in which the Boys dish out video cameras to 50 fans at a sold-out Madison Square Garden's show and provide them with one simple instruction: no matter what, keep on recording. The film goes on to capture not only the mania of a Beastie Boys show, but also the insanity that occurs within the crowds of onlookers. Whether it's unenthusiastic fans glowering in their seats or hardcore fans that talk their way backstage, it's all caught on tape.

Concert documentaries seem to be all the rage nowadays, but the problem with releasing them in theatres is meeting the musical interests of an audience.

Most of the memorable highlights of the movie involve a few interesting and explicit trips to the bathroom, as well as random fans' humorous reactions and facial expressions. One guy, in keeping with the rules, takes his camera to the washroom and records himself peeing in a toilet. Another

fan tries to encourage his less than exuberant pals to show a little more enthusiasm for the camera. A ton of other hilarious situations are worth noting as well, like a guy who talks his way backstage and a girl who, unknowingly, is seen dancing like a fool.

Aside from random audience snippets, the footage taken of The Beastie Boys themselves is nothing impressive. It's shaky and nauseating, and after about half an hour of amateur filming, it gets boring. If you're a huge fan of the Beastie Boys and anything they do makes your day, then you might think otherwise; however, for the average viewer who likes their music but doesn't house them permanently in a CD player, the film becomes tedious. You might as well listen to the Beastie Boys, watching them on the big screen is just not the same as experiencing them live. *Awsesome* is, in general, a creative way to catch a glimpse of what goes on in a concert audience, but overall, it's not worth paying to see. You're better off saving your money to go see them for yourself.

Concert documentaries seem to be all the rage nowadays, but the problem with releasing them in theatres is meeting the musical interests of an audience. Everyone has their own specific taste in music, and while someone might enjoy listening to the Beastie Boys, watching them on the big screen is just not the same as experiencing them live. *Awsesome* is, in general, a creative way to catch a glimpse of what goes on in a concert audience, but overall, it's not worth paying to see. You're better off saving your money to go see them for yourself.



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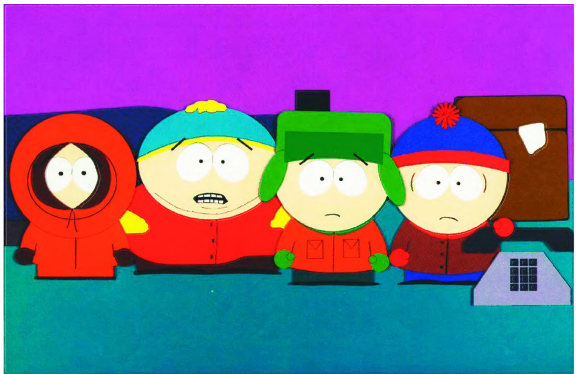
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South Park: Season Seven: respect its authorit-ah!

South Park: Season Seven DVD

Directed by Trey Parker and Matt Stone
Starring Trey Parker, Matt Stone, Mary Kay Bergman and Isaac Hayes
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JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

By now, most people know whether or not they like *South Park*. To be honest—and to be fair—it's a love-it-or-leave-it kind of show; you either revel in the biting commentary and bare-knuckle shots at current events, or, well, you don't watch the show.

With the release of *South Park: Season Seven*, the show has presented proof as to why what started as a crudely animated gross-out comedy has secured itself a spot as one of television's smartest shows. Coming in a brand new graffiti-styled case, season seven is one of the most consistent *South Park* seasons yet released. And, unlike the rest of the series, where there's usually at least one completely skipable episode, every half-hour segment in this run as at worst good and at best flawless, with several fan-favourites filling the space between.

The box set quite likely catches the animated series at its peak; the social

commentary is at its sharpest and the ideas fresh enough to not reek of the stale rehashing that now plagues long-running sitcoms. Favourite story lines are re-played out, such as Cartman convincing Butters to hide in a bomb shelter so that he can go to the Casa Bonita theme park, a ridiculous and evil scheme that succinctly sums up the *modus operandi* of the series. Other fan-favourite episodes like "Lil' Crime Stoppers," "Christian Rock Hard" and "Krazy Kripples" are also occupants of season seven.

The show has become famous for its sharp social commentary, and anyone is open for ridicule in this collection of episodes. Topics covered include the divisiveness over the Iraq war, anti-smoking legislation and Indian casinos, among other equally inflammatory subjects. However, where most shows take on a single side of the issue, *South Park* is unique in being equal opportunity lampoonists. For those easily offended, it can be hard to see the true meanings behind some of the messages that the show offers in this compilation—especially of religion, which is again brought up several times in season seven as Christian rock and Mormon generosity are poked at.

There are a couple disappointments

on this set, though. The Christmas episode, a homage to the Wizard of Oz that's set in Canada with the captured Saddam Hussein as prime minister isn't up to par with their past quality for Christmas specials, and represents the beginning of a continued slide in the quality of such episodes that still continues. As well, the special features included on the disc are once again sorely lacking. Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the series' creators, have their signature "mini-commentaries" for each episode that run for around three minutes at the beginning of each show and detail their inspirations for each episode. Sadly, that's all that's available for special features other than some Comedy Central commercials that you'll never watch.

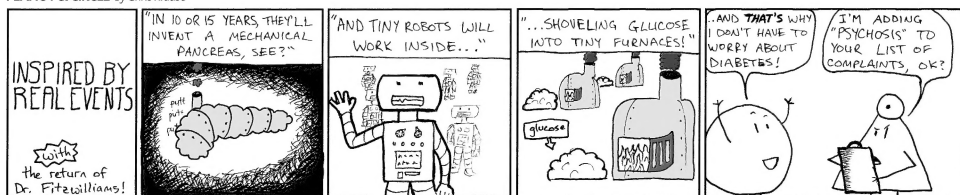
Fans of *South Park* definitely should not go without this season, and for non-fans, season seven would be as good of a start as any to break into the show. The focus of *South Park* has changed from its roots over the years, as long-time viewers will notice, but the message is still the same: anything is fair game for satire. With send-ups like *South Park* and the *Daily Show* becoming increasingly more important in political discourse, it's terrific to see that the show is still turning heads ten years on.



GOODNIGHT EDMONTON, THERE WILL BE NO ENCORE! Aging punk rocker Hugh Cornwell played an acoustic set at the PowerPlant, Friday, telling the noisy and inert crowd that buying a ticket and talking through the set is "fucking idiotic."

DANA KORMERDO

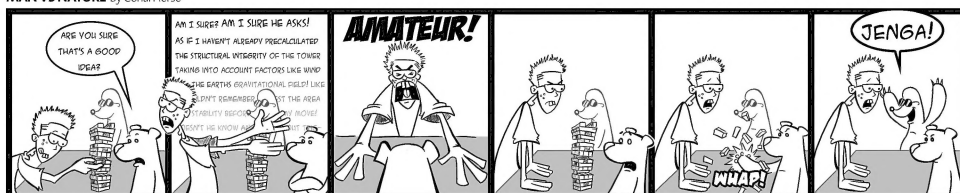
PEANUT & CIRCLE by Chris Krause



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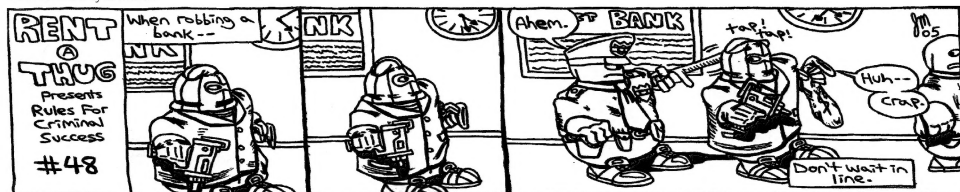
MAN VS NATURE by Conal Pierce



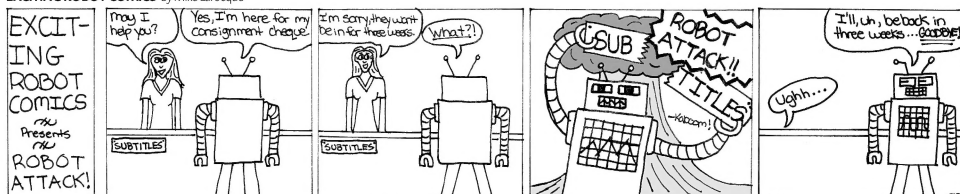
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It is a beautiful sunny Sunday, and my relationship status is such that I am clearing out my sock drawer. I get to the bottom, and discover 3 blue, foil squares. Ah, old friends, I remember you well. The optimism of buying a box of 12. The butterflies in the stomach on the night of your unveiling. And now you sit abandoned. And, it turns out, soon to expire. I'm a frugal sort. I hate wasting anything. So now I've got a timeline for final deployment: Nov 2006. I'm very task oriented—I love working against a deadline. Don't pass up this opportunity, the offers on the table interested parties e-mail clacker.cash@gmail.com.

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